

14
MASHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
1963.

District Council Offices,
MASHAM.

H. DIGGLES,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MASHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

North Riding of Yorkshire.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

The Chairman (Councillor H.H. Hardy)

The Vice-Chairman (Councillor T. Reynolds)

and all the members of the Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. H. Diggles, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Area Health Offices,

The Wensleydale Secondary Modern School,
LEYBURN, Yorks.

Telephone: Leyburn 2125.

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

A. Nunn, C.R.S.H.

Council Offices,

MASHAM, Yorks.

Telephone: Masham 378.

Area Health Office,

LEYBURN.

1964.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
MASHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1963.

In 1963 the state of public health in Masham was very satisfactory. There were no maternal deaths, stillbirths, infant deaths or deaths from tuberculosis.

The provision of adequate sewerage and sewage disposal schemes in the district is satisfactory.

The water supply was taken over during the year by the Northallerton and Dales Water Board. The Swinton reservoir was completed during the year.

During the year five old people's bungalows were completed. These helped the housing position in Masham and enabled some progress to be made in dealing with the unfit houses. A further six bungalows were almost completed.

In conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation to the Members and Officials of the Council for the help and support I have received from them during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. DIGGLES,

Medical Officer of Health.



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SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a) GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	25,995
Population (Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population mid-year 1963)	1,570
Population (1931 Census)	2,024
Population (1951 Census)	1,738
Number of Inhabited houses 1963	589
Rateable Value (at 1st April 1963)	£68,777
Product of a penny rate (1st April 1963)	£163.35

(b) VITAL STATISTICS (AS SUPPLIED BY REGISTRAR GENERAL)

	MALES			FEMALES		
	Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate
LIVE BIRTHS	12	12	—	13	13	—
STILL BIRTHS	—	—	—	—	—	—
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u>						
UNDER 1 YEAR	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNDER 4 WEEKS	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNDER 1 WEEK	—	—	—	—	—	—

CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant Disease	3	-	3
Vascular Lesions, Nervous System	2	-	2
Coronary Disease, Angina	4	3	7
Other Heart Disease	1	1	2
Other Circulatory Disease	1	-	1
Pneumonia	1	1	2
All other Accidents	1	-	1

Total Deaths (all causes)	13	5	18

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

It was not necessary to take action under Section 47 of the above Act which deals with the compulsory removal to a place of safety of persons in need of care and attention.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities.

Laboratory facilities are provided at the Public Health Laboratory, Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

Ambulance Facilities.

The North Riding of Yorkshire County Council supply ambulance services from their station at Thirsk.

Hospital Services.

Local Hospital accomodation is provided by the Northallerton Management Committee of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. In addition, a number of residents receive both in-patient and out-patient treatment at hospitals under the control of the Ripon and Harrogate Management Committee of the Leeds Regional Hospital Board.

Nursing in the Home.

The Home Nursing and Domiciliary Midwifery services are under the general direction of the County Council with the day-to-day administration dealt with by the Wensleydale Area Local Health Sub-Committee through the District Medical Officer. One district nurse/midwife operates in the area.

Domestic Health Service.

This service is under the general direction of the County Council with the day-to-day administration dealt with by the Wensleydale Area Local Health Sub-Committee.

SECTION C.

Water Supplies.

Details are to be found in the Public Health Officer's Section.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Details are to be found in the Public Health Officer's Section.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Details are to be found in the Public Health Officer's Section.

SECTION D.

Housing.

Details are to be found in the Public Health Officer's Section.

SECTION E.

Meat and Other Foods.

Details are to be found in the Public Health Officer's Section.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

<u>Infectious Diseases Notified.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Whooping Cough.	-	2	2

Council Offices,

Masham.

1964.

Report of the Public Health Inspector and Surveyor

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in reporting on my first year's work as your Public Health Inspector and Surveyor. It was a year which will long be remembered for the severity of the winter, much of the district being covered with snow for the first nine weeks.

In past years the Council have been very active in extending and improving water supplies and sewerage facilities and in the erection of new Council houses. With the majority of these schemes recently completed, or in their last stages, it has been possible to give greater attention to the older installations, and much work has been done in that direction. It is not possible to show dramatic improvements due to these efforts, but the main effect of them is the avoiding of future difficulties which would cause unnecessary upset of routine and require drastic remedies. Much remains to be done, but as labour-saving equipment is obtained it will make more time available to take on additional work.

The presentation of this report gives me the opportunity to express my thanks to the Council, the Medical Officer of Health, the Clerk and his staff, and to the many members of the public who, especially during the difficult days at the beginning of the year, were so helpful in so many ways. I would also record my appreciation of the conscientious way in which the Council's workman has carried out his duties.

I have, Gentlemen, the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

Arthur Nunn,

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The Council's water undertaking was taken over by the newly formed Northallerton and Dales Water Board on 1st October 1963, but the Council continued administering the whole of the arrangements until after the end of the year. The Board's District Water Officer made regular visits with me to various points in the supply in order to become familiar with the system.

The system, at the end of the year, was comprised of:

Mains owned by (a) Northallerton and The Dales Water Board	4.
(b) Other Statutory Undertakings	2.

Schemes in progress during the year.

Work of construction on the new 90,000 gallon reservoir at Mossra Lane continued during the year.

Details of Water Supply.

Generally, the supply of water throughout the district has been sufficient, though occasional difficulties were encountered. Perhaps the most notable of these occurred during the thaw at the end of the hard winter of 1962/63, when the supply to Ellingstring ceased without warning. No particular cause was located, but it is considered that the only explanation which can be offered is that the very rapid thaw which took place brought about such a great intake of heat by the melting snow that the water coming into the collecting chambers was frozen for a sufficient time to allow the whole of this undulating system of supply pipes to become air-locked.

Regular meter readings of bulk supplies were instituted to obtain up-to-date statistics of water usage, but the absence of meters at certain vital points prevented a complete picture from being obtained. However, the figures obtained did show the extent to which the presence of larger numbers of dairy cattle than human beings in the Ellingtons and Ellingstring had their effect on the consumption figures for those parishes.

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Estimated Population.</u>	<u>Water Consumption (Galls.per head per day)</u>
Masham	900	69
Ellingstring	40	144
High Ellington	30	113
Low Ellington	38	137

Water Sampling.

Samples of water from each of the main supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results:

<u>Supply.</u>	<u>Coliform Bacilli.</u>	<u>Bact.Coli.(type 1)</u>
Masham.	0	0
Ilton.	0	0
Ellingstring.	1	1

Contamination.

No cases of contamination were known to have occurred.

Distribution of Water.

The following numbers of houses were supplied by service pipes:-

Public Supplies:-

Northallerton & The Dales Water Board. 509

Other Public Supplies. 7

Private Supplies:-

68

Inspections.

In carrying out the supervision of the water supplies the following visits and inspections were made:-

Masham	249
Ellingtons	286
Ellingstring	175
Fearby	165
Healey	16
Ilton	53
Chlorinator House	60
Smeltstones Springs	3
Limestone Filter	1
Swinton (including reservoir under construction)	64

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Sewers.

The sewers in the district serve all the dwellings capable of connection at reasonable cost under present conditions. The main problems which exist at present are:-

i) The disposal of wastes from the two dwellings in Ellingstring near the boundary of the Leyburn R.D.C. and dwellings just over the boundary which connect into the culvert leading to the old quarry. Temporary measures have been taken to ensure the harmless disposal of this material until better arrangements can be made.

ii) The disposal of sewage from the Wellgarth area of Masham, part of which after sedimentation, passes with the remainder, including dairy and malting effluents, directly into the river.

Sewage Works.

Of the three sewage disposal plants, that at Fearby is working satisfactorily, but at Masham reports on the effluent are not good and at Ellingstring a certain amount of work is needed to put this plant into good order. The main effort in this section must, for some time to come, be spent on the Masham works, firstly to ascertain whether the cause of the trouble lies in the plant, its operation, or in the nature of the sewage. Once this has been done any necessary recommendations can be made.

Visits in connection with sewerage and drainage were as follows:-

Masham S.D.P.	432
Ejector Station.	7
Fearby S.D.P.	48
Ellingstring S.D.P.	14
General Drainage	81

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The refuse collection service continued under contract, covering the whole of the area with the exception of outlying farms in Colsterdale.

The tip in Healey Quarry was operated satisfactorily. A system of crude tipping and incineration is followed, with periodical levelling to provide new tracks for the collection vehicle and to compact the material. Periodic inspections were made, and when rats were found to be present baiting was carried out. 11 visits in all were made.

HOUSING.

As time has permitted, I have inspected superficially, the majority of the houses in the district. The general impression

is that though some of the dwellings could, in no sense, be called good, they cannot be closed or demolished under the existing legislation. It is hoped that the 1964 Housing Act will give an impetus to the improvement of existing houses when the necessary groundwork has been carried out. There is need for a general survey of all houses in the district and it is hoped to fit that in as time goes on.

Statistics in connection with housing:-

No. of occupied houses in the district.	584
No. of full inspections made.	10
No. of houses closed.	-
No. of houses demolished.	-

Improvement Grants:-

No. of visits of inspection and interviews.	33
No. of Grants Applied for. Standard.	2
Discretionary.	7
No. of houses improved with Grant Aid.	
Standard Grants.	4
Discretionary Grants.	7

Council Housing.

The Council has now provided:-

4	Four-bedroom houses
58	Three-bedroom houses
14	Two-bedroom bungalows
1	One-bedroom bungalow.

A further 4 two-bedroom bungalows and 2 one-bedroom bungalows are almost complete.

100 visits were made to Council dwellings in course of erection and 168 to existing houses for maintenance inspections. Fifty of the houses were painted externally during the year.

BUILDING BYELAWS.

No. of plans submitted to and approved by the Council	- 16
No. of visits to works in progress (private works)	- 30

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The year saw the introduction of the Meat Inspection Regulations giving closer guidance on the inspection of animals slaughtered for human food. The 100% inspection of carcasses

is relatively simple in this area as there is only one slaughterhouse in the district, and the butcher is co-operative in arranging his programme to fit in with the occasions when your Inspector is away from the district on holiday etc. 52 visits were made to the slaughterhouse for the purpose of inspecting.

Bullocks and Heifers	58
Pigs	62
Sheep	156

Tuberculosis and Cysticercus Bovis.

No cases of either were found during the year.

Meat Condemned.

The following amounts of meat were condemned during the year:-

Pig liver	3 lbs.
Sheep carcase and organs	60 lbs. Fever.

Food Premises.

11 visits were made to various food premises during the year.

RODENT AND INSECT INFESTATION.

Free services are available for domestic infestations and advice is offered to others dealing with farm and business property infestations.

A total of 14 visits were made in respect of rodent infestations.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

No, of licensed sites for permanent occupation 2
(of which only one is in use)

In addition there is in the summer a certain amount of week-end caravanning and camping. Four visits were made.

CLEAN AIR ACT.

There are three industrial furnaces in the district, and while no lengthy observations were made, watch was kept on the

amount of smoke produced. On no occasion was anything seen which warranted action.

NUISANCES.

Inspections. 1

All conditions found were remedied informally.

FACTORIES.

The following details on factories are the relevant sections of the table required by the Ministry of Labour to be furnished under section 153(1) of the Factories Act 1961.

1. Inspections.

	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(ii) Factories in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	20	25	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced.	3	172 visits to these premises.	-	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Sanitary Accommodation Section 7 Unsuitable.	1	1	1

Outworkers.

There are no known outworkers in the district.

OTHER VISITS.

Over and above the foregoing, the following visits were made:-

Interviews on various matters.	66	Planning.	6
Other Council Property.	16	Flooding.	18
Petroleum Regulations.	9	Miscellaneous.	89

